



FACT SHEET

FY 2011 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Background

On February 1, President Obama transmitted his \$3.8 trillion Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget request to Congress. Several days before the release of the budget, President Obama announced a three-year overall freeze in discretionary spending except for those related to defense and national security. Correspondingly, the President's budget request level-funds most disability related programs, provides small increases for some priorities and cuts or consolidates others.

Included in the freeze are all the Developmental Disabilities Act programs (University Centers for Excellence, DD Councils, and Protection & Advocacy). President Obama's 2011 education budget focuses on K-12 elementary and secondary education in anticipation of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, formerly NCLB) with increased competitive funding to encourage academic reforms. However, special education programs continue to be underfunded, as the budget proposes very small increases for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) state grant; and, in spite of the overwhelming scientific evidence about the positive effects of providing early intervention, the Preschool Grant and the Part C Early Intervention programs are flat-funded. In a significant disappointment, the President's budget seeks a deep reduction for the HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program. Section 811 provides competitive grants to non-profits to build or rehabilitate affordable and accessible units for non-elderly low-income persons with significant disabilities.

On the positive side, the President's budget supports many health-related programs important to people with disabilities, such as extending the increased Medicaid match provided in the Recovery Act (ARRA) and supporting increased funding for Social Security Administration to cover the on-going costs of administering the programs and efforts to reduce the backlogs in decisions on disability claims. The Administration also proposed the Supported Employment Extended Services for Youth Grant program, a new competitive grant program to expand supported employment opportunities for youth with the most significant disabilities as they transition from school to the workforce.

The President's budget request is only the first step in an almost year-long process of completing annual appropriations for federal department programs. The next step is for the House and Senate Budget Committees to begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Resolution (BR). The BR, once adopted by the Congress, will serve as the blueprint which the Appropriations Committees will use to make program by program spending decisions.

In addition to submitting the budget request to Congress, on February 18, the President signed an executive order establishing a new, bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. The Commission's objective is to put forward proposals to balance the budget (excluding interest payments on the debt) by 2015 and to improve the long-term fiscal outlook (reducing the deficit to 3 percent of GDP). The Commission will also examine changes to address the growth of entitlement spending, which includes programs that people with disabilities rely on such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare.

Action Taken by Congress and the Administration

Following the release of the Obama Administration budget on February 1, the Congressional committees with jurisdiction over the Federal budget and appropriations process have been side tracked by health care reform. The various Obama Cabinet members have presented testimony in defense of the Administration's proposal.

Work on the FY 2011 Budget Resolution is expected to start in mid-April.

Recommendations

- Adopt a FY 2011 Budget Resolution that allows for the expansion of disability discretionary programs, strengthens entitlement programs and supports the recently enacted reforms to health care and long term services and supports;
- Increase FY 2011 appropriations for key disability programs in accordance with the recommendations in the table below; and
- Increase funding for the Social Security Administration and those federal government agencies that enforce disability rights.

The following table compares FY 2010 appropriations and the President's request for key disability programs with our recommendations for FY 2011 funding.

Table Comparing FY 2010, President's Budget and Our Recommendations (In Millions)	Final FY 2010	President's FY 2011 Budget	FY 2011 Recommendation
IDEA Part B State and Local Grants	11,505.0	11,755.0	12,755.0
Preschool Grants	374.0	374.0	450.0
Part C Early Intervention	440.0	440.0	520.0
State Personnel Development	48.0	48.0	55.0
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	49.5	49.5	55.0
Personnel Preparation	91.0	91.0	100.0
Higher Ed. Demonstration Projects-Disability	7.0	7.0	10.0
Postsecondary Program for Students with ID	11.0	11.0	14.0
University Centers for Excellence in DD	38.9	38.9	44.0
Developmental Disabilities Councils	75.1	75.1	78.0
Protection & Advocacy Systems	41.0	41.0	46.0
Projects of National Significance	14.0	14.0	16.0
Maternal & Child Health Block Grant	662.1	673.0	730.0
Combating Autism Act – Autism and Other DD	48.0	55.0	55.0
Center on Birth Defects & DD	143.4	143.5	150.0
Natl. Institute of Child Health and Hum. Dev.	1,329.5	1,369.5	1,643.4
Lifespan Respite Care Act	2.5	5.0	98.0
Office of Disability Employment Policy	39.0	39.0	48.0
Voc. Rehabilitation State Grant	3,084.6	3,141.5	3,141.5
Supported Employment State Grant	29.2	0.0	50.0
Supported Employment Extended Services Youth	<i>new</i>	25.0	25.0
NIDRR	109.2	112.0	120.0
State Assistive Technology Programs	31.0	31.0	32.0
Independent Living Formula Grants	104.0	110.0	115.0
Social Security Administrative Expenses	11,598	12,528	12,528.0

Relevant Committees

House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittees
House and Senate Budget Committees

For more information, please contact The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy Disability Policy Collaboration (202) 783-2229, Association of University Centers on Disability (301) 588-8252, American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (202) 387-1968, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (202) 506-5813 or the Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (802) 760-8856.